

DECEMBER 8

Children's Church Lesson: "The Fruit of the Spirit"

Objective:

To teach children about the nine fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23 and how they can grow these qualities in their lives.

Scripture Focus:

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV):

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

Lesson Outline:

1. Welcome & Introduction (5 minutes)

Start by asking the children:

- "What is your favorite fruit?"
- "Have you ever heard of spiritual fruit?"
- Explain that today's lesson is about the fruit of the Spirit, which aren't actual fruits, but special qualities God helps us grow in our hearts.

2. Bible Lesson: The Fruit of the Spirit (10 minutes)

Explain that when we follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps us grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Just like trees need water and sunshine to grow fruit, we need to stay close to God to grow these qualities in our lives.

Illustration:

- Bring in real fruits (apples, oranges, bananas, etc.) and compare them to the spiritual fruits.
- Show how each fruit is different, just like the fruits of the Spirit, but they all come from the same source—God's Spirit.

3. Discussion Questions (5 minutes):

- What are some ways we can show love to others?
- When do you feel joy or peace?
- Which fruit of the Spirit do you think is the hardest to grow? Why?

4. Memory Verse Practice (5 minutes):

Help the children memorize Galatians 5:22-23. Use simple hand motions to represent each fruit of the Spirit, making it easier for the children to remember.

Craft: "Fruit of the Spirit Tree"

Materials Needed:

- Large sheet of brown construction paper or a pre-cut tree shape for each child
- Different colored paper or cardstock for fruit shapes (apple, banana, orange, etc.)
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Scissors

Instructions:

- 1. Create the Tree**
 - Help the children glue a large pre-cut or drawn tree trunk onto a piece of construction paper.
- 2. Cut and Decorate the Fruit**
 - Give each child several fruit shapes cut out of colorful paper (or have them cut out the shapes).
 - On each fruit, help them write one of the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, etc.).
- 3. Assemble the Fruit of the Spirit Tree**
 - Once the children have written the names of each fruit of the Spirit, have them glue the fruits onto their tree branches.
- 4. Decorate and Display**
 - Let the children color and decorate their trees, adding leaves or any extra designs.
 - Encourage them to share their trees with the class and explain which fruit of the Spirit they want to grow more in their lives